

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Original) A linkage system comprising three or more link mechanisms, each consisting of a center link member and end link members rotatably coupled to the center link member and to link hubs that are provided to an input member and an output member, respectively, wherein an input side and an output side of a center cross-sectional plane of each link mechanism are geometrically identical, and wherein one or more of revolute joints of two or more of the link mechanisms that are coupled to the input member are provided with a stopping mechanism for stopping the output member at a given position.

Claim 2 (Original) A linkage system according to claim 1, wherein the stopping mechanism has a structure that increases rotation torque at the revolute joints.

Claim 3 (Original) A linkage system according to claim 2, wherein the revolute joints each have a bearing structure with a negative bearing clearance.

Claim 4 (Original) A linkage system according to claim 1, wherein the stopping mechanism has a ratchet mechanism provided in the revolute joints.

Claim 5 (Original) A linkage system according to claim 1, wherein the stopping mechanism has an actuator for freely controlling the rotation angle of the revolute joints.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A linkage system according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2, wherein the stopping mechanism is provided in two or more of the revolute joints on the link hub of one of the input member and the output member.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A linkage system according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 8 (Original) A linkage system according to claim 6, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 9 (New) A linkage system according to claim 3, wherein the stopping mechanism is provided in two or more of the revolute joints on the link hub of one of the input member and the output member.

Claim 10 (New) A linkage system according to claim 4, wherein the stopping mechanism is provided in two or more of the revolute joints on the link hub of one of the input member and the output member.

Claim 11 (New) A linkage system according to claim 5, wherein the stopping mechanism is provided in two or more of the revolute joints on the link hub of one of the input member and the output member.

Claim 12 (New) A linkage system according to claim 2, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 13 (New) A linkage system according to claim 3, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 14 (New) A linkage system according to claim 4, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 15 (New) A linkage system according to claim 5, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 16 (New) A linkage system according to claim 9, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 17 (New) A linkage system according to claim 10, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.

Claim 18 (New) A linkage system according to claim 11, wherein a passage for supplying a control medium from the input member to the output member is arranged in an inner space enclosed by the link mechanisms.